

TOP OF THE HILL

Volume 3, Number 4

MBA Junior School

May 1998

ATLANTA: HOT TIME IN THE CITY

by: Deke Shearon

Last week, MBA's 8th Grade took a class trip to beautiful Atlanta, Georgia. The trip began early Saturday morning, with a sleepy assembly in the

Game. The highlights of the day were starting the wave at the Braves Game, and heckling Barry "The Rat" Bonds.

Sunday was when the real fun began. The day started on a sour note as we were awakened from an all-too-

time to enjoy the facilities. Most rode every ride, while others were content with talking to the teachers the majority of the time. One of the most interesting parts of the trip was seeing the teachers off campus. Mr. Corzine, always professional, was actually quite relaxed at the park, even smiling once or twice. Mr. Brown was also relaxed, and seemed happy to be out of the teacher mode. Mr. Lundstrom was his usual, painfully sarcastic self. Mr. Spiegl wandered about in his wrestling shoes, acting as the roller coaster guru for the trip. Dr. Barrow was his normal, semi-crazy self.

The most memorable portion of the trip was watching Dr. Barrow, Zach, and Buck ride the skycoaster, a quasi-bungee cord ride. Despite the fact that Dr. Barrow was the person to bring up the idea, Buck and Zach later recalled a tirade of obscenities coming from the good doctor's mouth during the ride.

The night closed with what some countries call a dinner and some good sleep. The following day was fairly forgettable in comparison, since we went to only the Fairbank Museum (albeit with a cool IMAX movie) and Lenox Square Mall. All in all, the trip proved to be quite the bonding experience between teachers and students, and this particular writer has nothing bad to say about the entire experience and only envies the seventh graders and the joys they have to come around May of next year.



The Trifecta of Terror: Buck, Dr. Barrow, and Zach

gym parking lot. After an all-too-long bus ride, we finally arrived in Atlanta. Saturday's festivities mostly consisted of the Varsity, where we were verbally lambasted by the local employees, the Coke Museum, where gallons of caffeine were consumed, Underground Atlanta, where most of us feared for our lives and the rest were at Hooters, and the Braves

(un)peaceful sleep, and treated to a four-star breakfast at McDonald's. Then we went to Six Flags. It was raining, and for the first half of the day, the weather was miserable. This was cool, however, because it made the park all the emptier, which eliminated lines. Ten hours there at first seemed like an incredibly long time, but actually was not nearly enough

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FEATURES

LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR

I was thoroughly disappointed by the article, "Music's Good, Bad, and Ugly." To start, each band mentioned in the article was a rock artist. The article was music's best, not rock's best. Furthermore, it made some tremendous oversights. How can artists like Phish, who stole their style from the Grateful Dead, and Miles Davis be compared to the Beatles, Rolling Stones, Jimi Hendrix, and the Eagles. The quotation, "We have been around the music world a long time," is an outright lie. Sixteen years is merely a blink of an eye in terms of music, which has been around for hundreds of years. Each band mentioned performed decades before the authors of this article were born. When writing such an important music article, please use originality and talent to choose your albums. While the Beatles music started a music revolution, Phish, Miles Davis, and Pink Floyd only wrote a style of music which had been used for a year. With the exception of Led Zeppelin and possibly the Alman Brothers, none of the bands mentioned were very original or incredibly talented.

Michael Pass

I was bewildered, confused, and totally amazed at Nick Reid's choice of the best movie of all time. First of all, I don't really like Gene Hackman, and I would never have the best movie of all time with him in it. Second, Nick was only naming movies by the famous actors in the movies. He left out some of the best actors (Tim Robbins, Nicolas Cage, Sean Connery, Morgan Freeman). My favorite movie is one that is not on Nick's list, and many people may not remember it or have seen it, as I am sure not many people have seen or remember *The French Connection*. *The Shawshank Redemption*. This movie nearly brought me to tears, and not even *Titanic* could do this. It is a drama, and it barely beats *Dead Poet's Society* and *Good Will Hunting*. Tim Robbins plays a man convicted of a murder he did not commit, who is sentenced to life in prison. There he meets another jailbird, played by Morgan Freeman, who becomes his best friend. The movie

shows the hardships of life and jail, a true and unbreakable friendship, and how you only need hope. I don't think many people still count it as one of the best of all time, with all the new Blockbuster booms that stay in the movie theatre for months (*Titanic*, *Independence Day*) Still, in my opinion, it is the greatest movie I have ever seen.

Andrew Quinn

LIEUTENANT JESS ANDREWS

by: Nick Reid

On April 8, 1998, Lieutenant Jess Andrews set out towards East Nashville hoping to serve a routine warrant for apprehension of Steven A. Greenwade, a local drug dealer.

Little did he know or suspect the danger he would soon be put in. He cautiously strode toward the door of a rundown, weather-beaten dump with rotting shutters and a molding door protruding from the decrepit foundation. As he approached the door, two shots rang out, slicing through the flimsy outer covering of the shack.

Before he could realize it, a stinging sensation ripped into his stomach, hurling him back into the brick-wall opposite him. Shocked by the commotion, he remained near the wall gasping for breath, as his fellow officers quickly arrested the suspect. Luckily for Lieutenant Andrews, he was wearing a bullet proof vest which blocked the impact of the bullet.

Policemen have an extremely unique profession, unlike anybody else. Rather than laying money on the line, they sacrifice their lives for the sake of protecting our community. They are truly the common, sometimes unap-

preciated heroes of our world. Just recently I got the chance to speak to Lieutenant Jess Andrews about his job and he says he became a police officer primarily because he wanted to help clean up the streets of Nashville. During his 25 years on the police force, he has spent time in, intelligence, the bomb squad, and even scuba diving. Over the past six years, he has found himself specializing in narcotics. When asked about what he enjoys on the force, he responds in a collected voice, "I like seeing criminals who have done wrong be put in jail." The most dangerous situation he has ever been put in is most definitely his episode with Mr. Greenwade. He explained that on his way to the house he ran various scenarios through his mind, preparing for the worst. Police violence has occurred before, so readiness for the worst possible story lines is crucial. Upon arriving at the house, Lieutenant Andrews slowly approached the door until he heard a deafening pop followed by a ripping sensation through his stomach. At that time, he really didn't know what had happened to him. His mind was mov-

ing quicker than his body as thoughts ran like wildfire through his brain. It wasn't until he was thrust into the wall that he noticed exactly what had happened. Luckily, his counterparts quickly apprehended the maniacal gunman, and it was over. The suspect was indicted in court last week, and could face up to twenty-five years in prison.

When

Mrs. Thurmond was told to notify Jess, an eighth grader at MBA, that his father had been shot, she probably didn't know what to expect from him. The calm, collected demeanor which he displayed was quite impressive. I suppose when your dad is laying his life on the line each day, one would get used to coping with stress associated with his risky profession. In a day when we praise athletes for playing their sport well, isn't it nice to know that we have courageous men and women keeping our community safe? Perhaps they are the real heroes.



A real hero

FEATURES

CELLO TRIO

by: Ben Newman

During assembly on the 27 of April, Hamilton Berry, Alec Berryman, and Michael DeBruyn serenaded the entire school with the music of their three cellos. After a brief lesson on Mozart and all of his musical patterning, the trio played a piece by the composer, and now they are here to tell about the music and themselves.

Hamilton Berry has been playing the cello since he was five, and actually started with the violin when he was four. He says the reason he chose the cello was its range—than it could play very high notes and very low notes—and because he say Yo Yo Ma on the Mister Rogers show when he was four or five. He practices about an hour, five to six times a week, and has hour lessons along with three hour-orchestra practice weekly. When asked about playing in any recent events and competitions, he says that he mainly plays in church and at the MBA concerts where many of you have heard him, and has two concerts every year at the Blair School of Music, where he takes private lessons. He does not have a preference as to whether he plays in the trio or solo, and admits that practice sometimes interferes with homework, but mostly works around it. He likes to listen to classical music, assorted pop music, and music from eastern Europe and Russia, like Tchaikovsky. He likes playing music from the lateromantic period, or the late nineteenth century. He would encourage others to try the cello, but be warned, he says, it takes a lot of work, but is very rewarding in the end.

Michael DeBruyn started playing the cello when he was four and a half years old. He originally wanted to play the french horn, but as small french horns were not to be found, he decided to play the cello since it sounded like the french horn. He practices one and a half to two hours every day, and this does not accommodate homework. He claims he gets to bed at 11:30 to 12:00 every night and if homework is particularly bad, he sometimes stays up until 1:00. Recently, he has played in the Nashville Youth Symphony Concerto Competition (which he won) and the National Chamber Music competition. He thinks that playing solo is easier than playing as part of the trio or any other group, but does not dislike the chamber orchestra or the trio performances.

Michael likes to play classical music, especially the music of the romantic period, and likes listening to classical music of any sort.

Alec Berryman began playing the cello when he was three years old, and at the time, it was more his mother's decision than his. He says that he practices 45 minutes per day, when homework permits, and mostly plays in school events. He prefers playing in the trio to any other group because of the harmony and the fact that he thinks it is easier that way. Homework never interferes



Berryman, DeBruyn, Berry

with practice, and vice-versa, because he finishes his homework before he practices, and doesn't practice when he has too homework to do both. He prefers playing and listening to medieval and classical music, though he likes medieval music more than anything else.

All three of these cellists are assets to our school in terms of our music program, and we have been extremely fortunate that three cellists of such obvious skill have come into the school in the same grade. You can look forward to them playing in the MBA concerts from time to time, and if you see any of them around campus, congratulate them on their playing in assembly

REMEMBER THIS?

Compiled by Junior schoolers

--Tommy White's collapsing after getting back a 98 on an English test--Denbo's putting on Dr. Barrow's sweater vest--Mayo's last day--days leading up to the birth of the little Barrow--Mr. Caudill's telling Tommy the he "needs to be weaned from the academic nipple"--Mr. Corzine's bomb threat--beating BA in football--HVAC wrestling and track champs--the horrible *Julius Caesar* play--Simon Grace, the speed walker's sermon--declension songs--Mr. Corzine's library of nose sounds--Mr. Russell's throwing fake dog poop into Dr. Barrow's classroom--Rob Shell's asking if they had anti aircraft artillery during the Civil War--Mrs. Bourland's tripping over the spilled contents of Seth Cooper's backpack -Mr. Higgins' making his camp Laney cabinmates clean the bathrooms at midnight--the bare-chested, fire-twirling juggler at assembly--Mr. Russell's tea party--pep rally poems--Mr. Tillman as Carlton Flatt-- You're killin' me, men" (a Wims original)--Father Son Banquet,"uhden, uhden"--Robert Foster's falling in the creek at intramurals--learning Dr. Barrow's dinosaur extinction and alien pyramid construction theories--Michael Kwas's misspelling his name on a grammar quiz, hurling on the floor, backing into the fire alarm resulting in an all school fire drill--Blake Goodman, tailback, and Richard Howell, quarterback, falling into dog poop on the football practice field--Craig Boelick's shaving half his head--"OH NO!"--mustard in Harrison's backpack--GINA!!!--Mr. Bower's wide range of vocal tones and familiar "SAD!" --007 video in assembly--tornadoes and cicadas--Best Excuse--Brian Christie's""Mrs. Bourland, I had it, but my water broke last night" Best Prop in Mythology Play--live bird lighting on Timothy Vaughn's head--May 14, 1998- last Seinfeld

TOP OF THE HILL STAFF THANKS THE MOTHER'S CLUB FOR PROVIDING THE NEW DIGITAL CAMERA!

ENTERTAINMENT

MATERNAL BONDING

by: Jamie Ranson

A few Wednesdays ago, the whole school was treated to a half-day and an after-school holiday, in order to enjoy one of the joys of life, which ranks right up there with watching sports, drinking Coke, and socializing with guys: spending time with our moms. This pastime, however, tends to be underrated in the teenage opinion, which is something I have never really understood. Some people think that spending time with, liking, or even talking to one's mom is a sissy thing to do. I disagree, and I think that holidays like this are a good idea to get us students closer to our moms.

The mother-son concert began with a huge congregation around the quadrangle, where everyone waited for their mothers while they helped themselves to cookies and Coke. (Or should that be the other way around?)

Once everyone had come who was going to, we were instructed to sit down

on the grass in front of the Wallace building. A high school student came up to the fern-covered podium and made a speech introducing Mr. Jones, who made his own speech. Mr. Jones's oration talked about mothers and sons (what else?), but it focused on how much mothers wait for their sons. This was an interesting aspect of the parent-child relationship that many students (myself included) often take for granted. After Mr. Jones spoke, Mr. Gioia presented awards to the chair of the MBA Mothers' Club, and the parents of a high school student from Sweden.

After the awards were all presented, the concert part started. The performer was Mark Schultz, a youth leader at First Presbyterian Church, who had played at one of our assemblies. Of the four songs Mr. Schultz played on the piano, two

were about mother-son relations. Both dealt with the son growing up, one from the son's

and the other from the mom's perspective. I think they were both very touching. Another of his songs was an upbeat ballad about a heroic Texas ranger (featuring a failed attempt to sing along by the students), and the fourth was a song about saying

goodbye to a loved one. A high school girl sang with Mr. Schultz on the goodbye song. I think all of these songs were very well performed and well written. Mr. Schultz was selling CDs he had recorded, and I bought one, and I like it.

Overall, I think that this event was a success, and it gave us all a chance in our busy schedules to make time for our moms.



Cyrus and his mom, eerie isn't it?

GREATER TUNA: FINE SHOW, IT WAS, IT WAS!

By: Jamie Ranson

For the fourth quarter, eighth grade theater production, Dr. Fuller selected a play called *Greater Tuna*. This play was originally performed with two people playing all of the roles, but this was expanded so that the whole theater class could participate. *Tuna*, the setting of the play, is a hick town in Texas. The play gives a hilarious view of life in this town.

Recurring in the play were scenes of a radio news show, hosted by Thurston (Morgan Miller) and Arles (Garrett Voorhees), who gave accounts of many events that are all just a bit strange. (They repeated themselves, too!) There were a funeral with a song and dance act, a poetry recitation, interviews, opinion speeches, sports reviews, a near arrest, family arguments, and

more, all covered by Thurston and Arles. Other characters included Yippy (Walt Sharpton), Vera (Greg Levy), Bertha (Jamie Sperring), Jody (Ben Bevens), Stanley (Alex Lefferts), and Pearl (Jamie Ranson).

The play was put on on Thursday, May 14; the classes came to break the boredom of yet another per-exam study hall--they laughed, they cried, they kissed ten bucks goodbye. (No, actually, it was free.) But no matter what they did, they thought it was pretty darn funny. It was, it was!



Eighth Grade Theatre Group

SPORTS

MICROBE TENNIS SUCCESSFUL

by: David Was

The 1998 Microbe Tennis Team has had a very successful year going into the HVAC Tournament. They won every match this year but two, the Woodland match and the McCallie match. Everybody has consistently won and improved since the beginning of the year. The players on the bottom half of the ladder were Jamie Sperring, Frank Herron, Adam Zelizer, Robert Bracken, and David Was. The players who will participate in the 1998 HVAC Tournament held at MBA are as follows: William Bartholomew and Timothy Vaughn at No. 2 Doubles, Robert Stewart and Johnathan Estes at No. 1 Doubles, Hunter Oldacre at No. 3 Singles, Chad Fernandez at No. 2 Singles, and Allen Callison at No. 1 Singles. On the fourteenth, Microbe Tennis finished second in the HVAC tournament. Will Bartholomew and Tim Vaughn were champions, and Chad Fernandez and Hunter Oldacre were runners-up.

MICROBE TRACK

by William Sisk

Ummmmmm.....can you say, UNDEFEATED? Well, if you can, you are probably

thinking about, no, not football, and no, not basketball, or even lacrosse, but if you are thinking about the Microbe track season then you are right. The Microbe track team finished its regular season with an incredible record of 17-0. Also, to end the season with one final note of glory, MBA's Microbe track team came back from down 26 points to beat BA in the HVAC finals. Will Denbo (first in shot and second in discus) and Zack



Track: Begley, Turner, Lefferts, Booth, Miller, Reid, Shert, Guerre, Sisk, and Denbo



Callison, Oldacre, Bartholomew, Fernandez, Herron, Stewart, Bracken, Zelizer, Sperring

Sorenson (third in discus) were the only two to medal in the field events. After the field events were over, MBA was trailing not only BA by 26 points, but was also losing to Ensworth by 24 points. This challenge did not mean much to the MBA Big Red track team because they were confident all along that they could come back and regain and win the HVAC in the running events. Positive attitude led them to glory. The team came through on the drizzly and damp day of the meet and ended up with the First Place plaque. Nick Reid who came in fifth in the 400 and who was also the anchor leg of the 4 x 400, ended up with a silver medal for the finish in the 4 x 400. Akeem Turner (third place in the 400, and 1st leg of the 4 x 400) won two medals, a silver and a bronze, due to his incredible performance in both events. Andre Davis and Clayton Trammell (both who ran the 4 x 400) were the only seventh graders to medal. Other medalists were Zack Sorenson who ended up with an MBA high of 4 medals for the 4 x 100, 4 x 200, hurdles, and discus, also was an amazing force which led us to victory. Robbie Guerre also

(Continued on page 6)

SPORTS

BASEBALL:

SAD STORY

by: Richard Howell

The Microbe Baseball team was made up of a charming group of gents including the four veterans from last year. Logan Huffman was a wonderful pitcher and first baseman, Warner "Smiley" Jones a sensational shortstop,

whole team suffer reeking smells on road trips), Richard Howell (second base, pitcher, outfield, creator of "sumpin'sumpin") *The Fury Boys*: Hunter Hawkins (third base, outfielder, clutch hits, pitching versus Murfreesboro Central, game winning steal against Ensworth), Michael McDaniel, the other Fury boy (slow replacement pitcher—most batters couldn't touch his pitches). *The Ultimate Outfielders*: Andrew Quinn (stellar catches, nice at bats), Whitney "Who's on First?" Mills (a solid fielder). The last Ultimate Outfielder, Cody

Middle. One word: MASSIVE. The Fighting Microbes did not give up as we scored 5 runs and had solid pitching from Hunter Hawkins and closer Richard Howell. Our final mission was to take the bragging rights away from the Ensworth Tigers. We had a solid game with excellent pitching by Logan Huffman. He held the the Tigers to 3 runs while the Big Red came out with a victory and scored 4 runs with a game-winning steal by Hunter Hawkins. Hunter also added an RBI in the last inning to tie the game.



Reynolds, Quinn, Pace, Hall, Goodman, McKelvey, Jones, Huffman, Floyd, Foster, McDaniel, Vutsinas, Manning, and Howell

and "please don't let Warner throw batting practice" pitcher, Adam Floyd, showed talent as a catcher and first baseman. Finally, ultimate second baseman/hitter, James Pace, made very few errors and used his amazing skills at the plate to make key hits in important games. The eighth graders new to the team were Ford Manning (first base, outfielder and cocky scrimmage pitcher), Chris Vutsinas (key catches in right field, second base) and Tripp "Grunt" McKelvey (pitcher and "ES" third baseman). The mighty seventh graders included *The Catchers*: Robert Foster (smart base runner), Blake "Paintball Accessories, Macho Man" Goodman (pitcher, catcher, third baseman, first baseman and outfielder) *The Clowns*: Michael "Gas Man" Kwas (pitcher, first base, made the

Hall, has rare talent (number two batter, and a "need some work on his throw" shortstop). *The Stud*: Paul Reynolds (incredible bookkeeping manager stud) provided humor in the dugout. *The Coaches*: Higgins and Davis—Thanks for working with us.

The season began with Freedom Middle. We lost in a heart-breaker with great pitching by Michael McDaniel. We then had a long break because of the rain till our next game at CPA. The towering six feet men were no match for our pitching staff who allowed one single run. The Big Red stormed to victory, 6-1. Against Ensworth, we struggled, but we held them to only 5 runs, including a three run home run, a luck-shot to the fence by Jack Turner. Then we faced Murfreesboro Central

The '98 season in Microbe Baseball can be condensed into one little phrase: "A truly sad story." We were rained out so many times that we did not have enough days remaining to reschedule games. Even our make-up games of rain outs were rained out. We played 6 games! Our record could be described as 2-4-13. Two wins, four losses, and thirteen rain outs. As the wise Mr. Ricky Bowers would say, "SAD!"

Many will say to me when they read this newspaper, "Richard, your article was longer than your season," and I shall reply in a calm manner, "Yes, yes it was."

TRACK

(Concluded from page 4)

had an incredible meet, ending up with two gold medals and one bronze for the 4 x 100, 4 x 200, and the 100. Brett Begley and James Schrt also won two gold medals for the 4 x 100 and the 4 x 200. Morgan Miller set some of his own personal records as he won both the 800 (2:15, 3 seconds away from the HVAC record) and the mile (5:12) and also wound up with two gold medals. Brandon Booth and Warner Jones also contributed to the great success of the tournament as Brandon finished second in the mile, next to Morgan, and Warner also finished second in the 800, next to Morgan. The 4 x 800 team (Brian Christie, first leg; Alex Lefferts, 2nd leg; Matt Serck, third leg; and William Sisk, anchor leg) also achieved its best time over the season with a 9:59. So, it is hard to say who should be the MVP of the track team, but if I had to give one, I would give it to all the teachers who made us run for hours, encouraged us while we were literally dying out there, and celebrated all of our accomplishments with us. Can you say UNDEFEATED now?

ATLANTA PICTURES



ATLANTA
'98



LACROSSE: 2nd In State

by: Michael Pass

The 8th grade lacrosse team finished it's season Thursday. It was the state championship game against USN. Although the team lost their first game of the season to them, we stormed back and beat them three straight times. We finished the season 5-2. The reason we had been successful over the year is our coach and our players. This year's roster included Zack Wall, Will Fuqua, Buck Elam, Clay Brown, Michael Pass, Chris Hancock, Porter Meadors, Franklin Johnson, Alex Newman, Jeff Scruggs, Bubby Crowe, Ben Bevans, Russel McWhirter, Ryan Mirian, Alex Hammerline, Gavine Richey, Martin Baird, Walt Sharpton, Matt Reid, Heath Edwards, and the goalie, Joel Gabbert. We have had a great season, and we ended it the state runners up.



The 1998 Lacrosse Team



"Hercules, Hercules!" --7th Grade Mythology Plays

Harrison Lowe, Blake Goodman, Jay Howell, Mason Holmes, Paul Nealy, Will Stringfellow, Ray Walsh, Michael Mc Daniel, R. Shell

Congratulations!
To All 8th Grade Graduates

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